

Baily Democrat

The Gun-Boat Benton. The St. Louis Republican gives the following extended description of the gun-boat Benton, remodeled from the Submarine No. 7.

Some facts concerning this vessel, to leave port to-day for Dixie's land, may not be uninteresting. The Benton is 186 feet long on deck, and 75 feet wide at the beam. Her hold is 82 feet in depth, and with a heavy armament and crew aboard, will draw about 5 feet. She has a double hull; with the wheels working in the recess, near the stern. Her hull is of four-inch plank, and timbers 8 by 10 inches. The hull is divided by five fore and aft bulkheads, and thirteen cross bulkheads, making forty five watertight compartments. The deck frame-beams are ten inches square.

The main deck is planked with 4½-inch planks. The forward defense runs down the two-decked hull, and is 24½ inches thick. All sheathing is 2½ inches, iron plating. The entire boat is sealed with three and four-inch oak plank, caulked and made perfectly tight. Casemates extend around the whole boat, and are made of 12-inch timber. At the knuckle, on the main deck, the timber is from three to four feet in thickness, solid.

The Benton is pierced for and will carry eighteen heavy guns, all of which are now aboard.

The guns are from 32-pounders to 42-pounders caliber, some rifled and some smooth bore, and there are two 9-inch Dahlgren guns. The principal part of the armament is disposed in the forward part of the boat, there being two guns only at the stern.

The machinery, boilers, &c., are all under the deck. The cylinders are twenty inches in diameter with seven feet stroke. There are four boilers, twenty-four feet long and forty inches in diameter, double flued. The wheels are twenty feet in diameter with nine and a half feet hub. The wheel house is protected by timber from six to eight inches in thickness, and will be sheathed with heavy iron. The pilot house is protected by twelve-inch oak timber placed at an angle of about thirty degrees with the upper deck, is conical in shape, and of very ingenious construction. It will also be protected by a sheathing of heavy iron.

There are two magazines, one on each side, just forward of the wheels. They are each capable of carrying one hundred rounds of ammunition for every gun, and afford ample room for the necessary evolutions with them. The magazines can be flooded with water in a moment from the main deck, and are furnished and arranged in true naval style.

In fact, the gunboat Benton appeared to us to be complete, and she is said by good judges of naval architecture to be equal to anything that can be produced by any navy yard, in point of strength, material and durability. It seems almost impossible that a bullet or shell could penetrate the solid iron and wooden walls anywhere, and so far as appears the Benton will be able to make the voyage proposed without much difficulty or danger.

Excellent accommodations have been fitted up for officers, and we understand that Commodore Foote has selected the Benton as the flag ship of the fleet.

Her crew will consist of about 250 men in all, and Capt. John Scott, a well-known pilot, will act as sailing master. We are not informed who is to be military Captain.

News from the South. TEXAS INTELLIGENCE-DEFENSE OF GALVESTON.

A letter from Galveston to the Houston Telegraph, says:

It was not proper for me to state the number of men now here to protect this city. Suffice it to say, we can defend it from twenty-five thousand invaders.

In plain view of us, rises at anchor the blockading frigate San Jacinto. But we are so used to this sight that she is scarcely noticed.

The troops are drilled in battalion drill nearly every day, and are rapidly improving. But little sickness is reported.

Many people in the country are impressed with the belief that the majority of the women have left here; it is very true that many have, but a stranger would scarcely notice that any had gone, were he to visit us on some pleasant day.

The Galveston News, of the 9th, says:

All the men and means deemed necessary and available for the purpose have been put in requisition, and there is no idea of abandoning the place to the enemy.

A letter from the capital to the Telegraph, in referring to the Legislature now in session, says:

There is a good deal to be done, it is true, for we have an empty treasury and our finances are in a wretched condition. We cannot effect loans now as in peaceful times. Our United States bonds are not available. Our lands, in my opinion, cannot be made available now, and the only thing I can see, which is a certainty, is taxation, and the people must face the music.

I have no doubt ample relief will be extended to our citizens, by something akin to stay law, and, indeed, there is a disposition to do so, to extend relief wherever it may be needed.

Wane, Hempill and Oldham are in the city, all candidates for the Senate. I have some talk of Governor Runnels being a candidate, and Milton Potter, of Galveston, has many friends, who will urge his claims for that position.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

A correspondent of the New Orleans Crescent presents the following to the consideration of the authorities:

It is high time this city was purged of all persons who express northern sympathies, (we think so too), or who manifest joy at any trifling success of our enemies. If the terrible arrest of Messrs. Mason and Slidell has not caused the British Consul to be closed in this city instanter, the British Government has not sent a consul to the Confederate States, and it is derogatory on the part of the Confederate Government to permit the residence among us of a British official accredited to the Lincoln Government.

The Nashville in England.

The Philadelphia Press, after summing up the instances in which English officials have taken great pains to assist the rebellion, while professing neutrality, concludes in this wise:

Finally, in this resuscitation of broken faith and treason, though it has shown itself to our flag, we arrive at the last outcrop. The Harsey Bird, a New York first-class clipper, of nearly 1,500 tons, built in 1854, and worth \$60,000 to her owners, was met on the Atlantic, when bound from Havre to New York, by the rebel steamer Nashville, her captain and crew taken prisoners, and then herself set on fire and burnt to the water's edge. Pagan, the ruffian pirate in command, put the captive crew in irons, and no doubt took credit for great humanity in not committing the same outrage upon Capt. Nelson. This act of piracy was committed on the 19th ult., and the Nashville, reaching Southampton on the 21st, had put her prisoners ashore, at first, in a small packet station, and was about being refitted there. We anxiously await particulars.

The Emperor Napoleon proclaimed neutrality in this war—and has taken care that it should be maintained. His strict instructions were that no Confederate privateer should land her spoils, nor receive assistance, nor, indeed, be allowed into any French port, and he has been obeyed. But Napoleon is a great ruling mind, able and firm, capable of carrying out a high purpose, while Queen Victoria—amiable as a matron and gentlewoman—is but a puppet in the hands of Palmerston, Russell and Company, desirers in unredeemed pledges.

At the proper time, no doubt, when full information of this may come to her knowledge, Southampton, reaching her, Mr. Seavey, will have to open a correspondence with Lord Lyons, the noble diplomat, (who the London Times says) writes at once weakly and ungrammatically.

MILITARY NOTICES.

TO THE

BRAVE MEN

OF—

KENTUCKY!

UPON YOU WHO ARE WILLING TO LEAVE YOUR LOVE OF COUNTRY BY SELLING TO US A KNOT OF BRAVE MEN, CALL AND URGENTLY COME TO US WITH THE INFORMATION, WHICH WE DESIRE TO HAVE, AND WE WILL PAY YOU 2½ DOLLARS FOR EACH MAN.

SHOOT THEM ALL, AND WE WILL PAY YOU 2½ DOLLARS FOR EACH MAN.

OUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU.

W. P. BENTON, Capt. U. S. N. C. L. Gault, Jr., Major.

RECEIVED AND FORWARDED.

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